

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, the drawing was objected to because the black boxes were required to be descriptively labeled. In response, a REPLACEMENT SHEET is provided herewith for the block diagram of Fig. 3 in which all of the black boxes have been descriptively labeled as required. It is respectfully submitted that, upon entry of this REPLACEMENT SHEET, the drawing will be in proper form.

Claim 7 was objected to because of the noted typographical informality, which is herewith corrected in order to put the claim in proper form.

On the merits, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kyanuma, and also as being anticipated by Matsuno et al, for the reasons of record. In response, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references for the reasons detailed below.

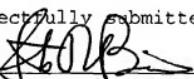
With regard to the Kyanuma reference, and in particular cited Fig. 10 thereof, it is noted that whereas Kyanuma shows a user area with defects at physical addresses 3 and 5, this reference does not appear to teach a separate defect management area associated with the user data area for storing defect management data, as expressly shown in Fig. 1 of the instant application and

as positively recited. In other words, while Kayanuma shows that Certain physical addresses may have defects, there is no teaching that two storage areas are provided, one of which requires support for defect management, and the other of which does not.

With regard to the Matsuno reference, the cited portion of the reference (Fig. 1 and paragraph [006]-[0007]) do not appear to contain any reference to the use of two storage areas, one of which requires defect management and has a defect management area, and the other of which does not.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the drawing and claims are now in proper form, and that claims 1-11 contain subject matter which is clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted to be justified at the present time, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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